

August 4, 2008



The Honorable Mary Peters  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Peters,

On behalf of the members of the Newark Regional Business Partnership, I ask that you support Continental Airlines' application to the Department of Transportation to enter into an alliance relationship with United and with other members of the Star Alliance. Continental is a vital part of the New Jersey/New York area economies and approval of its proposed agreements will help ensure Continental's, as well as the Newark region's, long-term competitiveness.

Fundamental industry change is necessary due to the unprecedented financial crisis the airline industry faces and I support Continental's decision to remain an independent airline and to continue providing its award-winning service as a member of the Star Alliance. Continental proposes a way to become a more global competitor and to achieve additional network reach without merging: joining the Star Alliance's anti-trust immunity; seeking enhanced cooperation with Air Canada, Lufthansa and United with a trans-Atlantic joint venture; and offering the domestic consumer wide-ranging benefits via code-sharing, frequent flyer and airport lounge reciprocity with United Airlines in the U.S. These new relationships will mean that New Jersey's and New York's business interests and traveling public will have access to more destinations worldwide, a greater inventory of seats, more route possibilities and more price options.

As the only U.S. carrier operating a hub in the New Jersey/New York region with extensive international and domestic service, Continental will fill a void in the Star Alliance's network. Continental's presence in the Star Alliance will also balance the region's alliance make-up with SkyTeam (via Delta) and oneworld (via American) at New York JFK and Star via Continental's hub at Newark Liberty.

I ask that you approve Continental's application to participate in anti-trust immunity previously granted to nine other carriers in the Alliance; to develop a competitive joint venture with Air Canada, United and Lufthansa and to cooperate in the domestic market with United Airlines. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Hallock", written over a horizontal line.

Chip Hallock  
President & CEO